



General Assembly

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26 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 44

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.42/Rev.1)]

56/223. United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/177 of 19 December 2000, in which it decided to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala from 1 January to 31 December 2001,

Taking into account the fact that the Government of Guatemala has expressed its commitment to the full implementation of the peace agreements,

Underlining the fact that substantive aspects of the peace agreements have yet to be implemented and that the Commission to Follow up the Implementation of the Peace Agreements has approved a new schedule for their implementation from 2000 until the end of 2004,

Taking into account that the parties have requested the United Nations to support the consolidation of the peace-building process until 2003,¹

Taking into account also the twelfth report of the Mission on human rights,²

Taking into account further the sixth report of the Secretary-General on the verification of compliance with the peace agreements,³

Taking into account the report of the Commission for Historical Clarification,⁴

Stressing the positive role played by the Mission in support of the Guatemala peace process, and emphasizing the need for the Mission to continue to enjoy the full support of all parties concerned,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Mission,⁵

1. *Welcomes* the twelfth report of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala on human rights;²

¹ See A/55/389, para. 9.

² A/56/273, annex.

³ A/55/973.

⁴ A/53/928, annex.

⁵ A/56/391.

2. *Also welcomes* the sixth report of the Secretary-General on the verification of compliance with the peace agreements;³

3. *Recalls* the report of the Commission for Historical Clarification⁴ and the recommendations contained therein;

4. *Welcomes* the commitment made by the Government of Guatemala to the full implementation of the peace agreements through the adoption of social policies anchored to the agreements;

5. *Recalls* that the Commission to Follow up the Implementation of the Peace Agreements has rescheduled the pending commitments and included others not initially scheduled;

6. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General⁵ aimed at ensuring that the Mission can respond adequately to the demands of the peace process until 31 December 2002, as well as of his proposals relating to the changes in the structure and staffing of the Mission for the period 2001–2003;

7. *Also takes note* of the agreement reached by the parties regarding the importance of the continuing presence of the Mission in Guatemala until 2003;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the progress made in the implementation of the peace agreements, in particular the partial fulfilment of the Fiscal Pact for a Future with Peace and Development which establishes the basis for increased public spending on the peace agenda and paves the way for the modernization of the economic system, and stresses the need to complete its implementation, in particular as regards measures to enhance public confidence in Government spending;

9. *Also notes with satisfaction* the significant reforms introduced in labour laws and the reinforcement of the operational capacities, training and full deployment of the National Civil Police;

10. *Underlines with concern* the fact that key commitments remain outstanding in the areas of fiscal, judicial, military, electoral and land reform, as well as decentralization and rural development, and therefore urges that those commitments be implemented without further delay;

11. *Notes* that the consolidation of the peace-building process remains a significant challenge that requires a concerted national effort to guarantee the irreversibility of the peace process;

12. *Also notes* that the present Government has taken a significant step forward by signing and ratifying various important international human rights instruments;

13. *Encourages* the Government to implement the recommendations contained in the reports of the Mission on human rights, in particular those related to the systematic impunity for crimes and human rights violations and the alarming increase in incidents directed at individuals working on human rights and judicial issues;

14. *Underlines* the importance of implementing fully the Agreement on identity and rights of indigenous peoples⁶ as a key to fighting discrimination and

⁶ A/49/882-S/1995/256, annex.

consolidating peace and equality in Guatemala, and highlights the need to implement fully the Agreement on Social and Economic Aspects and Agrarian Situation⁷ as a means of addressing the root causes of the armed conflict;

15. *Calls upon* the Government to implement the recommendations of the Commission for Historical Clarification with a view to promoting national reconciliation, upholding the right to truth and providing redress for the victims of human rights abuses and violence committed during the thirty-six-year conflict, and calls upon Congress to establish, as recommended, the Commission for Peace and Harmony;

16. *Invites* the international community and, in particular, the agencies, programmes and funds of the United Nations, to continue to support the consolidation of the peace-building process, with the peace agreements as the framework for their technical and financial assistance programmes and projects, and stresses the continued importance of close cooperation among them in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Guatemala;

17. *Urges* the international community to support financially, through existing mechanisms of international cooperation, the strengthening of national capacities to ensure the consolidation of the peace process in Guatemala;

18. *Also urges* the international community to support financially the strengthening of the capacities of the United Nations agencies and programmes as the Mission will transfer some of its activities and projects to these agencies to support the national efforts to comply with the commitments of the peace agreements;

19. *Stresses* that the Mission has a key role to play in promoting the consolidation of peace and the observance of human rights and in verifying compliance with the revised timetable for the implementation of pending commitments under the peace agreements;

20. *Decides* to authorize the renewal of the mandate of the Mission from 1 January to 31 December 2002;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, as early as possible, an updated report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, together with his recommendations regarding the continuation of the peace-building phase after 31 December 2002;

22. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the General Assembly fully informed of the implementation of the present resolution.

92nd plenary meeting
24 December 2001

⁷ A/50/956, annex.



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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

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56/224. The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

The General Assembly,

Considering the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, particularly resolution 637 (1989) of 27 July 1989, and its own resolutions, particularly resolution 43/24 of 15 November 1988, in which it requests the Secretary-General to continue his good offices and to afford the fullest possible support to the Central American Governments in their efforts to achieve the objectives of peace, reconciliation, democracy, development and justice established in the agreement on "Procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace in Central America" of 7 August 1987,¹

Reaffirming its resolutions in which it recognizes and stresses the importance of international economic, financial and technical cooperation and assistance, both bilateral and multilateral, aimed at promoting economic and social development in the region with a view to furthering and supplementing the efforts of the Central American peoples and Governments to achieve peace and democratization, particularly resolution 52/169 G of 16 December 1997, concerning international assistance to and cooperation with the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America, and the relevant resolutions concerning emergency assistance to the Central American countries, as a consequence of the destruction caused by natural disasters,

Emphasizing the importance of the development of the Central American Integration System, which has as its main objective the promotion of the integration process, the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America as the integrated programme for national and regional development, which contains the commitments and priorities of the countries of the area for the promotion of sustainable development, the establishment of the subsystem and of the regional social policy, the model of democratic Central American security, and the implementation of other agreements adopted at the presidential summit meetings,

¹ A/42/521-S/19085, annex.

which taken together constitute the global frame of reference for consolidating peace, freedom, democracy and development and the basis for the promotion of mutually advantageous relations between Central America and the international community.

Recognizing the considerable success achieved in the fulfilment of the commitments contained in the Guatemala peace agreements, implementation of which is being verified by the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala,

Noting with concern the deterioration in the Central American economies, mainly due to an unfavourable international economic climate and its negative effects on the efforts of the peoples and Governments of the region to achieve sustainable economic development,

Noting at the same time the delays in the fulfilment of some of the commitments contained in the Guatemala peace agreements, which have led the Commission to Follow up the Implementation of the peace agreements to reschedule its fulfilment for the period 2001–2004, and having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala and the recommendations contained therein² aimed at ensuring that the Mission is able to respond adequately to the demands of the peace process until December 2002,

Taking note with satisfaction of the successful implementation of the peace agreements and the continuous consolidation of the process of democratization in El Salvador, as a result of the efforts of its people and Government,

Recognizing with satisfaction the role played by the peacekeeping operations and observer and monitoring missions of the United Nations, which carried out successfully their mandate in Central America pursuant to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, respectively,

Recognizing with satisfaction also the organization and holding of general elections in 2001, in Nicaragua on 4 November and in Honduras on 25 November,

Emphasizing the importance of the end of a critical period in Central American history and the start of a new phase free from armed conflict, with freely elected Governments in each country and with political, economic, social and other changes which are creating a climate conducive to the promotion of economic growth and further progress towards the consolidation and further development of democratic, just and equitable societies,

Noting that the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction³ was held in Nicaragua in September 2001,

Reaffirming that the consolidation and establishment of firm and lasting peace and democracy in Central America is a dynamic and ongoing process that faces serious structural challenges,

Stressing the importance of progress in human development, especially the alleviation of extreme poverty, the promotion of economic and social justice, judicial reform, the promotion and safeguarding of human rights and fundamental

² A/56/391.

³ See CD/1478.

freedoms, respect for minorities and the satisfaction of the basic needs of the most vulnerable groups among the peoples in the region, issues which have been a primary source of tension and conflict and which deserve to be discussed with the same urgency and dedication as was the case in the settlement of armed conflicts,

Considering with concern that it has not yet been possible to overcome the devastating effects of hurricanes Mitch and Keith on certain countries of the region, which are causing setbacks in the progress made by the peoples and Governments of Central America, a situation which is aggravated by the earthquakes in El Salvador and the drought afflicting the entire region in 2001, especially Honduras and Nicaragua,

Emphasizing the solidarity of the international community with the victims of Hurricane Mitch, as demonstrated by the Stockholm Declaration,⁴ the subsequent meetings of the Regional Consultative Group for the transformation and modernization of Central America and, in particular, by the meeting of the Group, held in Madrid on 8 and 9 March 2001, at which the requirements of the Central American countries affected by natural disasters, including the earthquakes in El Salvador early in 2001, were considered,

Bearing in mind the efforts made by the Central American Governments to reduce the risks and mitigate the consequences of natural disasters in the region, as demonstrated by the adoption, by the Presidents of the Isthmus, of the Declaration of Guatemala II of 19 October 1999,⁵ the subsequent adoption of the Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Vulnerability and Disasters in Central America, as well as the adoption of the Central American Five-Year Plan for the Reduction of Vulnerability to and the Impact of Disasters, 2000 to 2004,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central America;⁶

2. *Commends* the efforts of the peoples and the Governments of the Central American countries to re-establish peace and democracy throughout the region and promote sustainable development by implementing the commitments adopted at the summit meetings in the region, and supports the decision of the Presidents that Central America should become a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development;

3. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to improve the electoral processes that have been taking place in Central America, which are conducive to the consolidation of democracy in the region;

4. *Recognizes* the need to continue to follow closely the situation in Central America according to the objectives and principles established in the Stockholm Declaration⁴ in order to support national and regional efforts to overcome the underlying causes that have led to armed conflicts, avoid setbacks and consolidate peace and democratization in the area and promote the objectives of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Central America;

5. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the results of the meeting of the Regional Consultative Group for the transformation and modernization of Central America

⁴ See www.iadb.org.

⁵ A/54/630, annex.

⁶ A/56/416.

which will continue to help to consolidate the transformation and modernization of Central America through the implementation of measures to reform and harmonize the legislation and institutions of the region, and through specific development projects;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Puebla-Panama Plan as a means of promoting the economic and social development of the Mesoamerican region, and in that connection recognizes the progress made in implementing the Plan and invites the friendly countries of the Mesoamerican region, international agencies and international businessmen and investors to support the Mesoamerican countries in the implementation of the projects prioritized in the Plan;

7. *Recognizes* the efforts made by the Government of El Salvador to deal effectively with the requirements deriving from the earthquakes in that country early in 2001;

8. *Welcomes* the valuable and speedy response of the international community to the serious natural disasters which have affected the region, in particular the earthquakes in El Salvador early in 2001, which demonstrates the permanent solidarity that unites the peoples of the world, and also urges the cooperating international community to continue to make the necessary contributions to supplement national efforts to reconstruct the country;

9. *Also welcomes* the Declaration of Guatemala II⁵ which provides for the necessary measures to prevent vulnerability to and mitigate the effects of natural disasters;

10. *Further welcomes* the progress achieved in implementing the Guatemala peace agreements, calls upon all parties to take further measures to implement the commitments in the peace agreements, in particular with regard to the Fiscal Pact for a Future with Peace and Development, the Agreement on identity and rights of indigenous peoples,⁷ and the recommendations of the Commission for Historical Clarification,⁸ and urges all sectors of society to combine efforts and work with courage and determination to consolidate peace;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General, the bodies and programmes of the United Nations system and the international community to continue to support and verify in Guatemala the implementation of all the peace agreements signed under United Nations auspices, compliance with which is an essential condition for a firm and lasting peace in that country, and to consider the implementation of the peace agreements as the framework for their technical and financial assistance programmes and projects, stressing the importance of constant and close cooperation among them in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Guatemala;

12. *Expresses its appreciation and satisfaction* to the people and the Government of El Salvador for their successful efforts to fulfil the commitments set forth in the peace agreements, which have made a substantial contribution to the strengthening of the process of democratization in that country;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of the Central American Integration System as the body set up to coordinate and harmonize efforts to achieve integration, and calls

⁷ A/49/882-S/1995/256, annex.

⁸ See A/53/928, annex.

upon the international community, the United Nations system and other international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to extend effective cooperation with a view to improving the competence and efficiency of the Integration System in the fulfilment of its mandate;

14. *Underlines* the efforts carried out in the Central American region towards integration, such as the Trinational Declaration between Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua, as well as the Customs Union between those countries, as means for promoting integration while respecting different stages of development, through a pragmatic mechanism open to the participation of the other countries of the region; underlines also the most recent progress in the form of the frontier post in Peñas Blancas, Nicaragua, common to four countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua), which became operational in October 2001; this customs unification, involving twelve frontier posts, entailed bilateral, trilateral and quadrilateral unifications;

15. *Encourages* the Central American Governments to continue to carry out their historic responsibilities by implementing fully the commitments they have assumed under national, regional or international agreements, especially the agreements for the promotion and safeguarding of human rights, and the commitments to implement the social programme to overcome poverty and unemployment, establish a more just and equitable society, improve public safety, strengthen the judiciary, consolidate a modern and transparent public administration and eliminate corruption, impunity, acts of terrorism and drug and arms trafficking, all of which are necessary and urgent measures for consolidating a firm and lasting peace in the region;

16. *Reiterates its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General, his special representatives, the groups of countries for the peace processes in El Salvador (Colombia, Mexico, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela), and Guatemala (Colombia, Mexico, Norway, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela), to the Support Group for Nicaragua (Canada, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden), to the European Union and to other countries that have contributed significantly and to the international community in general for its support and solidarity in the building of peace, democracy and development in Central America;

17. *Reaffirms* the importance of international cooperation, in particular cooperation with the bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and the donor community in the new stage of consolidating firm and lasting peace and democracy in Central America, and urges them to continue to support Central American efforts to achieve those goals;

18. *Notes with satisfaction* the firm determination of the Central American Governments to settle their disputes through peaceful means, thereby avoiding any setback in the efforts to consolidate firm and lasting peace in the region;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to lend his full support to the initiatives and activities of the Central American Governments, particularly their efforts to consolidate peace and democracy through the promotion of integration and the implementation of the comprehensive sustainable development programme, emphasizing, inter alia, the potential repercussions of natural disasters, in particular the persisting effects of hurricane Mitch, for the peace processes and the vulnerable economies of the region, and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development".

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Agenda item 89

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

*[on the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee) (A/55/572/Add.1)]*

56/225. Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolutions 54/81 B of 25 May 2000 and 55/135 of 8 December 2000,

Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, inter alia, through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations,

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the Organization make to peacekeeping,

Noting the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations expressed by many Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries,

Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;¹

¹ A/55/1024 and Corr.1.

2. *Endorses* the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee, contained in paragraphs 33 to 136 of its report;

3. *Urges* Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;

4. *Reiterates* that those Member States that become personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or that participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Special Committee, become members at the following session of the Special Committee;

5. *Decides* that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;

6. *Requests* the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/561/Add.1)]

56/226. World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and the decisions adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development at its organizational session,¹

Encouraging countries and relevant regional and international organizations to support the preparatory processes,

Welcoming national preparations for the Summit, including those at the local level, through the establishment of preparatory committees, with the participation of Governments and other stakeholders, the undertaking of national assessments and the initiation of other preparatory activities, encouraging all countries to intensify that work, and calling upon the United Nations system to support such activities,

Welcoming also the activities of major groups related to the preparations for the Summit, and encouraging them to carry out further preparatory activities,

Welcoming further the valuable contributions from the preparatory activities undertaken at the subregional and the regional level, as well as from other relevant initiatives undertaken at the international level,

Encouraging new initiatives that would contribute to the full implementation of Agenda 21,² the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development³ and other relevant outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by strengthening commitments at all levels, including by reinvigorating, at the highest political level, global commitment and partnerships, especially between Governments of the North and the South, on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups on the other,

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/56/19)*, chap. VIII, sect. B.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II*.

³ *Ibid.*, annex I.

Expressing its appreciation for the work undertaken by South Africa and Indonesia as the host Governments, respectively, of the Summit and the fourth session of the Preparatory Committee at the ministerial level,

1. *Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress in preparatory activities for the World Summit on Sustainable Development;*⁴

2. *Approves the provisional rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as recommended by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Summit at its organizational session;*⁵

3. *Decides that the Summit shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and States members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly and its conferences and with the rules of procedure of the Summit;*

4. *Also decides that the Summit shall be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, with the participation of heads of State and Government during the period 2 to 4 September;*

5. *Reiterates that the Summit, including its preparatory process, should ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection since they are interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development;*

6. *Invites countries to be represented at the highest political level at the Summit;*

7. *Requests the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the Preparatory Committee for the Summit to decide on all remaining issues related to the organization of work of the Summit, including specific details of the series of events to be held in partnership with stakeholders, the short multi-stakeholder event involving the highest level of representation from major groups and Governments, and the round-table meetings to be held at the level of heads of State or Government;*

8. *Requests the Secretary-General to launch a public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, including through reprioritization of the budget of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and voluntary contributions;*

9. *Invites donors to continue providing extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, in support of the preparatory activities for the Summit and the Summit itself, and to support the travel and participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular from the least developed countries, and encourages voluntary contributions to support the participation of major groups from developing countries;*

10. *Encourages all countries to complete their national assessment reports, and in that regard calls upon relevant regional and international organizations to further step up their efforts to assist developing countries in the elaboration of those assessment reports;*

⁴ A/56/379.

⁵ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19 (A/56/19), chap. VIII, sect. A, draft resolution, annex.*

11. *Encourages*, at the national level, the active involvement of all Government agencies responsible for economic development, social development and environmental protection, and invites them to provide coordinated inputs and contributions to the preparatory process of the Summit;

12. *Encourages* the active involvement of all relevant regional and international agencies and organizations, and invites them to provide inputs and contributions to the preparatory process of the Summit;

13. *Encourages* effective contributions from and the active participation of all major groups, as identified in Agenda 21,² at all stages of the preparatory process, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as its established practices for the participation and engagement of major groups;

14. *Reiterates* the invitation to all intergovernmental processes relevant to the Summit to submit their progress reports to the Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee at its second session, to be held from 28 January to 8 February 2002, and their final results to the Commission acting as the Preparatory Committee at its third session, to be held from 25 March to 5 April 2002, so that they can be fully considered in the preparatory process;

15. *Reiterates* the role of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the Preparatory Committee in the global intergovernmental process for the preparations for the Summit, and in that context recalls the mandate and role of its Bureau, as stipulated by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/199 and by the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the Preparatory Committee in the decisions adopted at its organizational session;¹

16. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by the Secretary-General to raise international awareness on the Summit;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the outcome of the Summit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21", taking into account the outcome of the Summit.

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Agenda item 106 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/569)]

56/227. Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/279 of 12 July 2001, in which it endorsed the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,²

Emphasizing the importance of a highly visible, efficient and effective follow-up and monitoring arrangement for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, as well as of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,³ the Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation between Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and the Donor Community,⁴ and relevant paragraphs of the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁵ for those countries,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up mechanism for coordinating, monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,⁶

1. Decides to establish the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, having the functions recommended by the Secretary-General in his report;⁷

¹ A/CONF.191/12.

² A/CONF.191/11.

³ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

⁴ TD/B.42(1)/11-TD/B/LDC/AC.1/7, annex I.

⁵ See resolution 55/2.

⁶ A/56/645 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1 and 2.

⁷ A/56/645, para. 17.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take immediate measures to make the Office of the High Representative operational as soon as possible;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to enhance the operational capacity of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as well as that of other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in their activities aimed at supporting recipient countries, especially developing countries, and in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

4. *Reiterates its invitation* to the organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to mainstream the implementation of the Brussels Declaration¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010² within their programmes of work as well as in their intergovernmental processes;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to review the title and functions of its current Office of the Special Coordinator;

6. *Invites* Member States to extend all necessary support and cooperation to the Office of the High Representative;

7. *Underlines* the importance of optimal coordination between the Office of the High Representative and the various organizations of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations;

8. *Invites* the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and other relevant multilateral organizations, to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative;

9. *Decides* that the provisions of the present resolution shall be implemented within the approved level of the budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and requests the Secretary-General to seek voluntary contributions for the Office of the High Representative;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/573)]

56/228. Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/24 of 10 November 1999 and its resolution 54/262 of 25 May 2000, by which it decided to convene the Second World Assembly on Ageing, to be held in Spain in April 2002, as well as its resolution 55/58 of 4 December 2000 on the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Bearing in mind that, in its resolution 54/262, the General Assembly decided that the Commission for Social Development would serve as the preparatory committee for the Second World Assembly on Ageing,

Reiterating that the Second World Assembly should give particular attention, inter alia, to linkages between ageing and development, with particular attention to the needs, priorities and perspectives of developing countries,

Reaffirming the necessity of ensuring that the Second World Assembly will provide an action-oriented follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, and recognizing the importance of an adequate preparatory process,

Affirming that the long-term strategy and revised plan of action on ageing to be adopted at the Second World Assembly should be realistic and relevant so that its implementation can be followed up effectively,

Reaffirming that the strategy and plan of action will contain realistic financial recommendations for implementation,

Aware of the need for the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to collaborate among themselves to support and follow up the implementation of the strategy and plan of action,

Recognizing the importance of the contributions of the relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations to the preparations for the Second World Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Second World Assembly on Ageing;¹
2. *Recommends* that the preparatory committee give due consideration to the period to be covered by the long-term strategy and revised plan of action on ageing to be adopted at the Second World Assembly;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the full range of tasks of the United Nations programme on ageing of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to ensuring, as a matter of urgency, that the programme can effectively fulfil its tasks, including those that might arise from the implementation of the outcome of the Second World Assembly;
4. *Invites* all relevant agencies and bodies of the United Nations system to coordinate better their response to the global ageing of populations and to integrate within their respective mandates their programmes and activities related to older persons, taking into account the importance of the perspective of older persons;
5. *Invites* the Second World Assembly to address, inter alia, the question of abuse of and discrimination against older persons;
6. *Invites* Member States, where appropriate, to consider extending the mandate of national committees or other mechanisms established on the occasion of the International Year of Older Persons in order to undertake national preparations for the Second World Assembly, and invites those Member States currently without such mechanisms to consider appropriate ways or mechanisms for their preparations for the Second World Assembly;
7. *Invites* the regional commissions, within their respective mandates, to explore the feasibility of undertaking regional activities with Member States, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors of civil society in their region to participate in and follow up the Second World Assembly;
8. *Invites* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to continue, in cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the host country, the information campaign for the Second World Assembly;
9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

92nd plenary meeting
24 December 2001

¹ A/56/152.



General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 112

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/576)]

56/229. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/70 of 4 December 2000 and its previous resolutions on the elimination of discrimination against women,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,¹ in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, which includes the integration of the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activities system-wide,

Reaffirming the commitments made in the political declaration² and the outcome document³ of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", in particular paragraphs 68 (c) and (d) concerning the Convention on the

¹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

² Resolution S-23/2, annex.

³ Resolution S-23/3, annex.

Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Optional Protocol thereto,⁵

Recalling that, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁶ heads of State and Government resolved to implement the Convention,

Welcoming the progress made in the implementation of the Convention, but expressing concern about the remaining challenges,

Welcoming also the growing number of States parties to the Convention, which now stands at one hundred and sixty-eight,

Welcoming further the entry into force on 22 December 2000 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that national reports should contain information on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action,⁷ in accordance with paragraph 323 of the Platform,

Having considered the report of the Committee on its twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions,⁸

Expressing concern at the great number of reports that are overdue and that continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General⁹ on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;⁴

2. *Expresses disappointment* that universal ratification of the Convention was not achieved by 2000, and urges all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;⁵

4. *Welcomes* the rapidly growing number of State parties to the Optional Protocol, which now stands at twenty-eight, and urges other States parties to the Convention to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

5. *Also welcomes* the fact that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has adopted the rules governing its work under the Optional Protocol as part of its revised rules of procedure;¹⁰

6. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States parties to limit the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate

⁴ Resolution 34/180, annex.

⁵ Resolution 54/4, annex.

⁶ See resolution 55/2.

⁷ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁸ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/56/38)*.

⁹ A/56/328.

¹⁰ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/56/38)*, annex I.

any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

7. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee and to cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

8. *Encourages* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invites Governments to contribute to these efforts;

9. *Commends* the Committee on its contributions to the effective implementation of the Convention;

10. *Strongly urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible so that the amendment may enter into force;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the additional meeting time that allows the Committee to hold two sessions annually, each session of three weeks' duration and each preceded by a pre-sessional working group of the Committee;

12. *Also expresses its appreciation* for the efforts made by the Committee to improve the efficiency of its working methods, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

13. *Acknowledges* the number of reports awaiting consideration by the Committee, and in this regard decides to authorize the Committee to hold, on an exceptional basis, an extraordinary session of three weeks' duration in 2002 to be used entirely for the consideration of the reports of the States parties in order to reduce the backlog of reports, and to enlarge the membership of the pre-sessional working group in 2002 to prepare for the exceptional session of the Committee, taking into account decision 25/I of the Committee;¹¹

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, to provide the resources, including staff and facilities, necessary for the effective functioning of the Committee within its full mandate, in particular taking into account the entry into force of the Optional Protocol;

15. *Urges* Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

16. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, as well as Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, as appropriate, to continue to assist States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention,

¹¹ Ibid., part two, chap. I, sect. A.

and in this regard encourages States parties to pay attention to the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

17. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and capacity to utilize human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

18. *Welcomes* the submission by the specialized agencies, at the invitation of the Committee, of reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities and the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee, and encourages the specialized agencies to continue to submit reports;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

*92nd plenary meeting
24 December 2001*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 119 (b)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/583/Add.2)]

56/230. Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/105 of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also its resolutions 55/34 B of 20 November 2000 and 55/233 of 23 December 2000 and section III of its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000,

Recalling further the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,¹

1. *Welcomes* the creation of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;
2. *Notes with satisfaction* the support given to the establishment of the Centre by the host country;
3. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, under the direction of the Secretary-General, to provide appropriate assistance to the Centre to ensure its efficiency and smooth functioning in accordance with section III of General Assembly resolution 55/234;
4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

*92nd plenary meeting
24 December 2001*

¹ A/56/36/Add.1.



General Assembly

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28 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 119 (c)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/583/Add.3)]

56/231. Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenants on Human Rights² and other applicable human rights instruments,

Aware that, in accordance with the Charter, the United Nations promotes and encourages respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government, and therefore expressing its grave concern that the Government of Myanmar has still not implemented its commitment to take all necessary steps towards democracy in the light of the results of the elections held in 1990,

Recalling its resolution 55/112 of 4 December 2000 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/58 of 3 March 1992,³ in which the Commission, *inter alia*, decided to nominate a special rapporteur with a given mandate, and taking note of Commission resolution 2001/15 of 18 April 2001,⁴ in which the Commission decided to extend for one year the mandate of its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,

Recalling also the observation made by the former Special Rapporteur that the absence of respect for the rights pertaining to democratic governance is at the root of all major violations of human rights in Myanmar,

Still gravely concerned about the human rights situation in Myanmar, especially the suppression of the exercise of political rights and freedom of thought, expression, association and movement in Myanmar, and about restrictions placed on

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 2 (E/1992/22), chap. II, sect. A.*

⁴ *Ibid.*, 2001, Supplement No. 3 (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.

Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy, inter alia, on their freedom to function and to communicate with the outside world,

Gravely concerned that the legal system is effectively used as an instrument of oppression, inter alia, through the intimidation and detention of lawyers,

Recognizing that the systematic violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights by the Government of Myanmar have had a significant adverse effect on the health and welfare of the people of Myanmar,

Welcoming the three visits to Myanmar by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General during the past year, and the visits by the Special Rapporteur, as well as by the high-level team of the International Labour Organization, and the cooperation extended to them by the Government of Myanmar,

Cautiously encouraged by signs of progress in the ongoing political process in Myanmar, as reported by the Special Rapporteur, especially the release of political prisoners and the relaxation of some of the constraints governing the operation of legal political parties, but still concerned at the slow speed of the process,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Myanmar for his interim report⁵ as well as his oral presentation;⁶

2. *Welcomes* the assistance extended to the Special Rapporteur by the Government of Myanmar during his exploratory visit in April 2001 and his first fact-finding mission in October 2001, which enabled him to establish direct contacts with the Government and all other relevant sectors of society, and calls upon the Government to continue to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur, to allow him to conduct further field missions, without preconditions, and to implement fully his recommendations;

3. *Also welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General⁷ on the visits to the country of his Special Envoy for Myanmar, strongly endorses his efforts to help facilitate the national reconciliation process among all interested parties in Myanmar, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to establish a constructive and regular dialogue with the Secretary-General in order to make better use of his good offices;

4. *Deplores* the continued violations of human rights in Myanmar, including extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, enforced disappearances, rape, torture, inhuman treatment, forced labour, including the use of children, forced relocation and denial of freedom of assembly, association, expression, religion and movement;

5. *Welcomes* the initiation of confidence-building contacts between the Government and Aung San Suu Kyi, General-Secretary of the National League for Democracy, and hopes that such talks will be extended at an appropriate time to include, among others, representatives of ethnic minorities, thereby facilitating broad-based and inclusive national reconciliation and the restoration of democracy;

⁵ See A/56/312.

⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Third Committee, 35th meeting*, (A/C.3/56/SR.35), and corrigendum.

⁷ A/56/505.

6. *Expresses its concern* at the slow progress in the talks between the Government of Myanmar and Aung San Suu Kyi, General-Secretary of the National League for Democracy, and urges that the increasing development and progress of the confidence-building measures ensure the irreversibility of the process towards democracy;

7. *Recognizes* the steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to allow some political functions to be resumed by the opposition, including the reopening of some branch offices of political parties and the cessation of the negative media campaign, but expresses deep concern at the unnecessary and discriminatory stringent restrictions that continue to hamper political parties' freedom of assembly, association, expression, information and movement, as noted by the Special Rapporteur, as well as at the use by the Government of intimidatory methods such as arbitrary detention and abuse of the legal system, and calls for an early restoration of political rights and freedoms;

8. *Notes* the dissemination of human rights standards for public officials through a series of human rights workshops, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to widen participation in these workshops to ensure that this information, and its practical implementation, can benefit all citizens of Myanmar;

9. *Also notes* the establishment by the Government of Myanmar of a national human rights committee, and encourages it to bring this committee into conformity with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights annexed to General Assembly resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993 (the Paris Principles);

10. *Welcomes* the release from detention of a number of democratic political activists, and strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to release all remaining detained political leaders and all political prisoners, including journalists, to ensure their physical integrity and to permit them to participate in the process of national reconciliation;

11. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, allowing the Committee to communicate with and visit detainees in accordance with its modalities of work, and hopes that the programme will be pursued further;

12. *Welcomes* the reopening of most university courses, but remains concerned that enjoyment of the right to education continues to be limited, often for political reasons, by the reduction in the length of the academic year, the division of the student population and its dispersal to distant campuses and the inadequate allocation of resources;

13. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to take urgent and concrete measures to ensure the establishment of democracy in accordance with the will of the people as expressed in the democratic elections held in 1990 and, to this end, to extend the talks initiated with Aung San Suu Kyi, General-Secretary of the National League for Democracy, to encompass a genuine and substantive dialogue with all the leaders of political parties and of ethnic minorities, with the aim of achieving national reconciliation and the restoration of democracy, and to ensure that political parties and non-governmental organizations can function freely, and, in this context notes the existence of the committee representing the People's Parliament;

14. *Recalls* the resolution adopted by the International Labour Conference at its eighty-eighth session, held from 30 May to 15 June 2000, recommending that international organizations reconsider any cooperation with Myanmar and that

Governments, employers and workers take appropriate measures to ensure that the Government of Myanmar could not take advantage of such relations to perpetuate or extend the system of forced or compulsory labour referred to by the Commission of Inquiry established to examine the observance by Myanmar of the International Labour Organization Convention concerning forced or compulsory labour (Convention No.29) of 1930;

15. *Welcomes* the recent visit to Myanmar undertaken by the high-level team of the International Labour Organization, with the objective of assessing the practical implications and impact of measures taken by the Government to eradicate the practice of forced labour and the cooperation that was extended to the team by the Government of Myanmar;

16. *Notes with regret* that the conclusion of the high-level team was that there was only moderately positive evolution in the situation, since there have been only uneven efforts to disseminate the orders, since the orders have not been observed by the military at the local level and since, despite widespread instances of forced labour, there have been no criminal prosecutions, and that much more will have to be done to address adequately the situation, including movement towards national reconciliation;

17. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to implement, in close cooperation with the International Labour Organization, concrete legislative, executive and administrative measures to eradicate the practice of forced labour, in conformity with the relevant recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry, and, in this context endorses the recommendations of the high-level team, including the establishment of a long-term representation of the International Labour Organization in Myanmar and the creation of an ombudsman, and encourages the Government of Myanmar to pursue the dialogue with the Director-General of the International Labour Organization to this end;

18. *Deplores* the continued violations of human rights, in particular those directed against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, including summary executions, rape, torture, forced labour, forced portorage, forced relocations, use of anti-personnel landmines, destruction of crops and fields and dispossession of land and property, which deprives those persons of all means of subsistence and results in large-scale displacement of persons and flows of refugees to neighbouring countries, with negative effects for those countries, and an increasing number of internally displaced persons;

19. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to end the systematic enforced displacement of persons and other causes of refugee flows to neighbouring countries and to create conditions conducive to their voluntary return and full reintegration in conditions of safety and dignity and to allow the safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel to assist in the return and reintegration process;

20. *Deplores* the continued violations of the human rights of women, especially women who are internally displaced or belong to ethnic minorities or the political opposition, in particular forced labour, trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, including rape;

21. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to implement fully the recommendations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in particular the request to prosecute and punish those who violate the human rights of women, and to carry out human rights education and gender-sensitization training, in particular for military personnel;

22. *Deplores* the recruitment of children as soldiers, in particular children belonging to ethnic minorities, and strongly urges the Government of Myanmar and all other parties to the hostilities in Myanmar to end the use of children as soldiers;

23. *Notes* that the Government of Myanmar is starting to address the growing incidence of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS), while recognizing that much still needs to be done, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS prevention, and urges the Government of Myanmar to recognize fully the severity of the situation and the need to take necessary action against the disease, in cooperation with all relevant political and ethnic groups, and through the development of the United Nations joint plan of action on HIV/AIDS, to be delivered through non-governmental organizations or international agencies with a view to reaching the communities most affected and most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS infection;

24. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to promote and protect the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS and guard against the marginalization and discrimination that they may experience and to ensure that the health-care system receives sufficient funding to enable health workers to provide the highest possible standard of health care;

25. *Expresses its grave concern* at the high rates of malnutrition among pre-school-aged children, which constitutes serious violations of their rights to adequate food and the highest attainable standard of health and may have serious repercussions for the health and development of the affected children;

26. *Strongly urges* the Government of Myanmar to ensure full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including economic and social rights, and to fulfil its obligation to restore the independence of the judiciary and due process and to end the impunity of and bring to justice any perpetrators of human rights violations, including members of the military, and to investigate and prosecute alleged violations committed by government agents in all circumstances;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government of Myanmar, to submit additional reports to the General Assembly during its fifty-sixth session on the progress of those discussions, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

28. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its fifty-seventh session.

*92nd plenary meeting
24 December 2001*



General Assembly

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Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 118

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/56/582)]

56/232. Use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/86 of 4 December 2000, and taking note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/3 of 6 April 2001,¹

Recalling also all of its relevant resolutions, in which, inter alia, it condemned any State that permitted or tolerated the recruitment, financing, training, assembly, transit and use of mercenaries with the objective of overthrowing the Governments of States Members of the United Nations, especially those of developing countries, or of fighting against national liberation movements, and recalling further the relevant resolutions and international instruments adopted by the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and the Organization of African Unity, inter alia, the Convention of the Organization of African Unity on the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations concerning the strict observance of the principles of sovereign equality, political independence, the territorial integrity of States, the self-determination of peoples, the non-use of force or of the threat of use of force in international relations and non-interference in affairs within the domestic jurisdiction of States,

Reaffirming also that, by virtue of the principle of self-determination, all peoples have the right freely to determine their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect this right in accordance with the provisions of the Charter,

Reaffirming further the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,²

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 3 (E/2001/23), chap. II, sect. A.*

² Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

Alarmed and concerned at the danger that the activities of mercenaries constitute to peace and security in developing countries, in particular in Africa and in small States,

Deeply concerned at the loss of life, the substantial damage to property and the negative effects on the policy and economies of affected countries resulting from criminal mercenary activities,

Convinced that, notwithstanding the way in which they are used or the form they take to acquire some semblance of legitimacy, mercenaries or mercenary-related activities are a threat to peace, security and the self-determination of peoples and an obstacle to the enjoyment of human rights by peoples,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;³

2. *Reaffirms* that the use of mercenaries and their recruitment, financing and training are causes for grave concern to all States and violate the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Recognizes* that armed conflict, terrorism, arms trafficking and covert operations by third Powers, inter alia, encourage the demand for mercenaries on the global market;

4. *Urges* all States to take the necessary steps and to exercise the utmost vigilance against the menace posed by the activities of mercenaries and to take legislative measures to ensure that their territories and other territories under their control, as well as their nationals, are not used for the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries for the planning of activities designed to impede the right of peoples to self-determination, to destabilize or overthrow the Government of any State or to dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States conducting themselves in compliance with the right of peoples to self-determination;

5. *Welcomes* the recent entry into force of the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries,⁴ and calls upon all States that have not yet done so to consider taking the necessary action to sign or ratify it, as a matter of priority;

6. *Welcomes also* the cooperation extended by those countries that have received visits from the Special Rapporteur;

7. *Welcomes further* the adoption by some States of national legislation that restricts the recruitment, assembly, financing, training and transit of mercenaries;

8. *Calls upon* States to investigate the possibility of mercenary involvement whenever and wherever criminal acts of a terrorist nature occur and to bring to trial those found responsible or to consider their extradition, if so requested, in accordance with domestic law and applicable bilateral or international treaties;

9. *Welcomes* the convening by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of a meeting of experts on the question of traditional and new forms of mercenary activities as a means of violating human

³ See A/56/224.

⁴ Resolution 44/34, annex.

rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, and takes note of its report,⁵ as a valuable contribution to the process of formulating a clearer legal definition of mercenaries that would make more efficient the prevention and punishment of mercenary activities;

10. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene, before the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, a second meeting of experts, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/151 of 17 December 1999, to continue studying and updating the international legislation and to make recommendations for a clearer legal definition of mercenaries that would make more efficient the prevention and punishment of mercenary activities;

11. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to propose a clearer definition of mercenaries, including clear nationality criteria, based on his findings, the proposals of States and the outcomes of the meetings of experts, and to make suggestions on the procedure to be followed for international adoption of a new definition;

12. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, as a matter of priority, to publicize the adverse effects of the activities of mercenaries on the right of peoples to self-determination and, when requested and where necessary, to render advisory services to States that are affected by the activities of mercenaries;

13. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue taking into account in the discharge of his mandate the fact that mercenary activities continue to occur in many parts of the world and are taking on new forms, manifestations and modalities;

14. *Urges* all States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the necessary assistance and support for the fulfilment of his mandate, both professional and financial, including through the promotion of cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and other components of the United Nations system that deal with countering mercenary-related activities;

16. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the present resolution and to report, with specific recommendations, to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session his findings on the use of mercenaries to undermine the right of peoples to self-determination;

17. *Decides* to consider at its fifty-seventh session the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination under the item entitled "Right of peoples to self-determination".

*92nd plenary meeting
24 December 2001*

⁵ E/CN.4/2001/18, annex.